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REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 14-17, 19, 20, and 26 are pending in the application for consideration on the merits. Claims 14-17, 19, 20 and 26 are allowed. Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected. Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim but would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the intervening and base claims. Favorable consideration of this application as amended is requested.

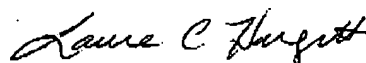
Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hayashi (6,684,574). Claim 1 has been canceled. Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 1. Claims 2 and 3, which previously depended on claim 1, are amended herein to depend on claim 7. Claim 4 still depends on claim 3, which now depends on claim 7.

Conclusion:

In summary, the Applicants believe that each formal and substantive requirement has now been met. The application is now believed to be in appropriate condition for allowance with claims 2-4, 6, 7, 14-17, 19, 20 and 26, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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